

RURAL DISTRICT OF BATTLE

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1951

BY

M. I. SILVERTON, T.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BATTLE

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(constitution at 31st December, 1951)

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR A. H. T. FINCH

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR A. C. McCRAE

COUN. W. C. BANISTER

COUN. G. BARLING

COUN. E. BLUFF

COUN. HON. E. D. COURTHOPE

COUN. CAPT. T. E. S. EGERTON

COUN. BRIG. A. B. MACDONALD

COUN. G. MIGHALL

COUN. SIR ALAN MOORE, BART.,
M.B., D.P.H.

COUN. H. G. SEYMOUR

COUN. MRS. M. WEST

COUN. MRS. E. WOODGATE

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

M. I. Silverton, T.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

W. Francis, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors:

W. T. Dunford, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

K. G. Bewick, Cert.S.I.B., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

R. E. Briggs, D.P.A., Cert.S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

G. J. Allen, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Clerical Staff:

Chief Clerk : Miss M. E. Portnell

Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination Clerk :

Miss M. H. Hearnshaw*

Shorthand-Typists and General Clerks:

Miss E. G. Dorey

Miss W. R. Burt

Miss M. C. Laird (from 9.7.51)

Mr. I. W. Mason

Rat Catchers : Mr. A. J. French

Mr. R. Elliott

*County Staff employed locally.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1951, this being my third report and the eighteenth since the inception of this District.

The statistics on page 5 reveal that the health of the District continues to compare favourably with previous years and the rest of England and Wales.

For the past four years Battle Rural District has been free from diphtheria. There is no doubt that immunisation is responsible for this satisfactory result. It is vitally important that the campaign of prevention be pursued with the utmost vigour, in order to obviate the possibility of recurrence of this killing disease.

I am pleased to record that there were no cases of poliomyelitis in Battle Rural District during the past year.

The significance of the incidence of the other notifiable infectious diseases is discussed in conjunction with the relevant statistical information.

The Housing Committee and Housing Manager have continued to give their support for the rehousing of families from dwellings which were militating against the health of the occupants, but much remains to be done in this direction.

I have represented seventeen houses under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

The water supplies in those hitherto unwatered areas are being augmented wherever possible despite present national economic difficulties and shortages of ferrous metals. Concomitant sewerage schemes are being pushed ahead.

I have been fortunate in having been supported by such an able team of Sanitary Inspectors, who under the leadership of their Chief Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Francis) have given of their best to secure the health of this widespread District with its variegated and multifarious problems.

The Chief Clerk (Miss Portnell) and the office staff have continued to give loyal and efficient service.

The Clerk of the Council and other Chief Officers have always been most helpful, their kindly co-operation is appreciated.

I wish to record my thanks for the help and consideration accorded me by the Members of the Council, and in particular the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

M. I. SILVERTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Watch Oak,
Battle, Sussex.

STATISTICS RELATING TO BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT

	1949	1950	1951
Area of District in acres (estimated)	117,059	117,147	117,147
Population (Registrar-General's estimate for mid-year)	30,130	29,910	29,960
Rateable value	£205,340	£210,309	£215,904
Sum represented by a penny rate ..	£826	£852	£876
Number of rateable premises at 1st April	11,177	11,193	11,427

BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES

LIVE BIRTHS:	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	203	166	369
Illegitimate	12	10	22
	215	176	391
STILLBIRTHS:			
Legitimate	5	2	7
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	6	3	9

Live birth rate per 1,000 of home population	13.05
Corrected birth rate	15.00
Live birth rate per 1,000 of home population (England and Wales)	15.5
Still birth rate per 1,000 births (live and still)	22.5
Still birth rate per 1,000 births (live and still) (England and Wales)	0.36

The Still Birth Rate would appear to be greatly increased having regard to the rest of England and Wales. This, however, is not the case and merely points to the fallacy of converting small numbers into statistical form for comparative purposes, therefore in order to avoid this misapprehension your attention is drawn to the actual number.

The Corrected Birth Rate takes into account the abnormal constitution of the population of this District in which there is a predominance of higher age groups and is therefore the appropriate figure when comparison is made with the rest of England and Wales.

Similarly, the Corrected Death Rate is the comparative figure for the rest of England and Wales.

Deaths and Death Rates

DEATHS:	Male	Female	Total
1949	220	214	434
1950	213	215	428
1951	220	215	435
Death rate for Battle Rural District per 1,000 of resident population			14.51

Corrected death rate for Battle Rural District	10.44
Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of civilian population	12.5

DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR:	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	6	5	11
Illegitimate	0	1	1

Infant death rate per 1,000 live births:

Battle Rural District	30.69
England and Wales	29.6

Death rate for diarrhoea (infants under 1 year) per 1,000 live births:

Battle Rural District	nil
England and Wales	1.4

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Battle Rural District	nil
England and Wales	0.79

DEATH RATES FROM SPECIFIC CAUSES

	England and Wales	Battle R.D.
Typhoid and paratyphoid	0.00	—
Whooping cough	0.01	—
Diphtheria	0.00	—
Tuberculosis	0.31	0.06
Acute poliomyelitis & polioencephalitis	0.00	—
Influenza	0.38	0.33
Pneumonia	0.61	0.43

DETAILED CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	1	2
Syphilitic disease	1	0	1
Meningococcal infections	0	2	2
Measles	0	1	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	0	1
Malignant neoplasms, all sites	31	30	61
Diabetes	0	3	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	1	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	28	31	59
Coronary disease, angina	23	16	39
Hypertension with heart disease	10	8	18
Other heart diseases	46	62	108
Other circulatory diseases	7	5	12
Influenza	6	4	10
Pneumonia	5	7	12
Bronchitis	11	4	15
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	5	6
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	2	6
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	0	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	4	7
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	0	4
Congenital malformations	3	2	5
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	16	22	38
Motor vehicle accidents	3	0	3
All other accidents	10	4	14
Suicide	3	1	4
	220	215	435

In considering the *Detailed Causes of Death* it is apparent that Malignant Neoplasm (Cancer) has accounted for 61 deaths.

Many, if not all, of these deaths were preventable providing the condition was diagnosed sufficiently early for surgical treatment to be effective. The people should be made aware of the simple early signs and so not delay seeking advice from their doctors, e.g. a lump in the breast, however small or painless, should be an immediate indication for consultation.

Now that the National Health Service Act has given everybody a private doctor service without charge there is no excuse for delay in seeking advice.

Until such time as Medical Research will have discovered the cause and mastered this scourge of mankind, it behoves us all to be on the alert and to prevent by the dissemination of knowledge the inevitable progression to fatality of the untreated or neglected case.

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS

	1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Pulmonary: Additions to Register ..	14	12	9	11	13	12	12	12	18	16	18	9
Total on Register at 31st Dec. ..	60	79	64	82	54	71	44	46	52	55	60	60
Non-pulmonary: Additions to Register ..	9	4	4	3	3	6	3	3	1	5	2	4
Total on Register at 31st Dec. ..	38	33	41	34	25	28	18	15	15	17	13	18

TRANSFERS FROM OTHER DISTRICTS

				PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
				Male	Female	Male	Female
1st Quarter	..	..	..	6	—	—	—
2nd	..	..	..	1	3	—	—
3rd	..	..	..	1	1	—	1
4th	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
Totals	..	..		8	4	—	1

Notified After Death: Nil

It will be noted that the transfers from other districts account for most of the apparent increase.

Tabulated lists (in age groups) of New Cases notified in this District and all Deaths during the current year are appended :

Age				NEW CASES (PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS)				ALL DEATHS			
				Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—2	..	..		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—5	..	..		—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
6—10	..	..		—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
11—15	..	..		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16—25	..	..		2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
26—35	..	..		2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
36—45	..	..		3	2	1	—	1	1	—	—
46—60	..	..		1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Over 60	..	..		1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	..	..		9	5	2	3	1	1	—	—

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1946-51, 1st JANUARY
—31st DECEMBER RESPECTIVELY

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Diphtheria (a)	2	1	0	0	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis (b)	0	4	0	1	3	0
Meningococcal infection	3	0	1	0	3	1
Measles (c)	81	150	221	422	69	410
Scarlet fever	22	12	13	32	35	22
Whooping cough (d)	35	140	108	42	162	251
Acute pneumonia	20	4	8	23	23	25
Erysipelas	3	3	6	6	8	2
Puerperal pyrexia	3	2	2	1	0	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum	2	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	0	0	0	0	0	1
Enteric group (e)	1	0	0	0	1	5

(a) Diphtheria

For the past four years Battle Rural District has been free from diphtheria.

Relevant immunisation statistics are given on page 11 and 12.

(b) Acute Poliomyelitis

I am pleased to record that there were no cases in Battle Rural District.

(c) Measles

There was an increased incidence during the year under review in contrast to the previous year.

Abrupt changes in incidence from year to year is typical of this disease, and it is likely that 1952 will show a substantial decrease.

(d) Whooping Cough

The incidence of this disease greatly increased during the past year as compared with previous years. Fortunately there were no fatalities.

The Medical Research Council are conducting field trials with new protective vaccines. Preliminary results are indicative of a large measure of success in preventing this distressing disease.

I am hopeful that a suitable protective inoculation will be generally available in the near future.

(e) Enteric Group

Food Poisoning Outbreaks in 1951.

Total number of outbreaks ..	Two
Number of cases	Five
Number of deaths	Nil
Types of organisms	(a) <i>Salmonella typhi-murium</i> (2 cases)
	(b) <i>Salmonella enteritidis jena</i> (3 cases)

The five cases of food poisoning notified were probably due to the ingestion of foods contaminated by salmonella organisms.

Two of these cases occurred in a boarding school and investigation pointed to the likelihood that one boy had been a persistent carrier for years and had infected his neighbour.

Both boys recovered completely, although the original carrier still continued to excrete this organism (*salmonella typhi-murium*).

Preventive measures were instituted in order to minimise the possibility of infection from this source. Eventually he left the district and warning notices were sent to his private doctor and the Medical Officer of Health of his new abode.

The remaining three cases (adults) occurred in one household, all having been infected by a similar organism (*salmonella enteritidis jena*). They were thoroughly investigated but the source of infection was not definitely located, although there was a possibility that it had originated in duck eggs produced on the farm. This latter assertion could not be proved as the ducks had been disposed of just prior to the investigation.

All three patients recovered completely, leaving no carrier state.

Other Diseases

The incidence of the other infectious diseases have no particular significance.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS

	Measles	Whooping cough	Scarlet fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Meningococcal infection	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Dysentery	Totals
Under 1 year	8	17	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	26
1—2 years	52	51	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	103
3—4 „	82	47	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	134
5—9 „	201	113	13	4	—	—	—	—	—	331
10—14 „	43	12	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	60
15—24 „	9	2	2	—	—	1	1	1	1	17
25—44 „	10	6	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	21
45—64 „	4	1	1	8	—	—	2	—	—	16
65 over	1	2	—	5	2	—	—	—	—	10
Totals	410	251	22	25	2	1	5	1	1	718

DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE VARIOUS PARISHES

	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Pneu- monia	Erysi- pelas	Mening- ococcal Infect.	Food Poisoning	Puerperal pyrexia	Dysentery
Ashburnham ..	40	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Battle	28	46	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Beckley	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bodiam	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Brede	3	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brightling ..	3	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Broomhill ..	17	4	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Burwash	13	12	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Catsfield	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Crowhurst ..	23	12	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dallington ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Guldeford ..	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Etchingham ..	10	15	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ewhurst	9	8	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Fairlight	6	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guestling	16	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	1
Icklesham ..	39	26	3	8	—	—	—	—	—
Iden	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mountfield ..	1	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northiam	10	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Ore	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peasmarsh ..	28	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Penhurst	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pett	16	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Playden	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rye Foreign ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salehurst	65	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sedlescombe ..	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
St. Thomas the Apost- le, Winchelsea ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ticehurst	12	49	—	8	1	—	3	—	—
Udimore	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Westfield	28	19	—	1	1	—	2	—	—
Whatlington ..	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	410	251	22	25	2	1	5	1	1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SERVICE

Number of children who received injections in 1951

			<i>Treated at clinics.</i>	<i>By private doctors.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Primary course :					
Under 5 years of age	..		160	191	351
From 5—14 years	..	..	71	10	81
Total	..	..			432
Reinforcing dose					
	..	..	501	76	577

Total number of children under 15 years of age resident in the Rural District who had been immunised up to 31st December, 1951 :

Under 5 years of age	..	..	1,506
5—14 years (inclusive)	..	..	3,915
			<hr/> 5,421 <hr/>

Comparative figures for the past three years :

		1949	1950	1951
Number immunised under 5 years	..	1,387	1,508	1,506
Child population (under 5 years)	..	2,342	2,315	2,289
Percentage of child population (under 5)	..	59.22%	65.14%	65.79%
Number immunised 5—14 (inclusive)	..	3,493	3,503	3,915
Child population (5—14 years)	..	3,957	4,184	4,202
Percentage of child population (5—14 years)	..	88.27%	83.72%	93.16%

Comparative Diphtheria Immunisation percentages for Schools.

School	No. on Register	No. Immunised	Percentage
Ashburnham C.P.	63	62	98.41
Battle V.P.	305	266	87.21
Beckley V.P.	56	53	94.64
Bodiam V.P.	59	56	94.91
Brede C.P.	72	65	90.27
Burwash V.P.	130	125	96.15
St. Philip's, Burwash Weald	51	47	92.15
Catsfield V.P.	80	74	92.50
Crowhurst V.P.	52	52	100.00
Dallington V.P.	38	36	94.73
Etchingham V.P.	31	28	90.32
Ewhurst V.P.	24	23	95.83
Fairlight V.P.	32	30	93.75
Guestling V.P.	51	51	100.00
Hurst Green V.P.	89	75	84.26
Icklesham V.P.	40	36	90.00
Mountfield and Whatlington V.P.	139	131	94.24
Netherfield V.P.	56	54	96.42
Northiam V.P.	108	104	96.29
Peasmarsh V.P.	75	74	98.66
Pett V.P.	39	31	79.48
Playden V.P.	48	43	89.58
Salehurst V.P.	165	152	92.12
Sedlescombe V.P.	93	85	91.39
Staplecross V.P.	44	41	93.18
Stonegate V.P.	40	40	100.00
Ticehurst V.P.	185	175	94.59
Udimore C.P.	34	34	100.00
Westfield C.P.	120	117	97.50
Winchelsea V.P.	64	59	92.18
	<hr/> 2,383 <hr/>	<hr/> 2,219 <hr/>	<hr/> 93.11 <hr/>
Attending private schools or schools outside the District	1,819	1,696	93.23

Diphtheria Immunisation

There is some satisfaction in noting the increased numbers of protected children in this District. However, this is no indication for complacency, this disease is still a potential killer which can attack children of all ages once we relax our preventive measures. The rush for protection would then be just as frantic as that exemplified by the raised smallpox vaccination figures given in the succeeding table which are indicative of the proximity of the smallpox outbreak in Brighton in the closing months of 1950 and early 1951.

However, in this connection it should be noted that protection from diphtheria cannot be achieved in the course of a week or two following the requisite injections, but takes months to reach full efficiency, thus differing from vaccination against smallpox.

The minority of parents who have proved so misguided and adamant in refusing immunisation are thus perpetuating a grave risk to their children which could be so easily avoided at no expense to themselves and with negligible discomfort to their offspring.

VACCINATION

The following persons were vaccinated in 1951:—

			<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1—4 years</i>	<i>5—14 years</i>	<i>15 or over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Primary vaccination	..	..	245	109	312	445	1,111
Re-vaccination	..	..	—	32	499	1,324	1,855

Comparison with previous years:—

				<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
Total Primary vaccinations..	..	..	..	206	331	1,111
Total Re-vaccinations	..	..	..	77	161	1,855
Number of babies born in 1951	..	..	..	..	..	391
Number of babies under 1 year vaccinated in 1951	..	..	..	..	..	245
Percentage vaccinated in 1951	..	..	..	..	..	62.66%

CLEAN FOOD

Constant supervision and vigilance is exercised by the Staff of this Department in safeguarding the health of the people.

Opportunity is invariably taken to educate food handlers individually in personal hygiene, this is considered to be the cornerstone in the campaign for the prevention of contamination of foodstuffs.

The mere distribution of leaflets is time wasting and of no avail unless these are accompanied by verbal explanations and practical demonstrations wherever possible.

Many village stores are cramped and have insufficient and unsuitable storage facilities for their many products. This results in the creation of badly illuminated corners and neglected inaccessible areas which become centres for the accumulation of dirt and filth and suitable breeding places for insects and rodents.

Owners in the main have proved to be co-operative in carrying out suggested measures to obviate these sources of contamination and have in some cases expressed their satisfaction in the " new look " of their premises, comparative ease of cleaning and freedom from infestation by rodents.

Copies of the Clean Food Byelaws were distributed by hand to all managers of food premises in pursuance of the policy that personal contact and discussion of individual problems relating to the observance of the clean food byelaws was the only reasonable and satisfactory method of achieving and expediting this object. Much goodwill and co-operation has been engendered by this mode of approach.

ICE CREAM

Six new premises were registered for the sale of ice cream during 1951, bringing the total to 101. Forty-one registered premises sell only the wrapped product.

Six samples were taken from shops in Battle and submitted for examination by the methylene blue test; 5 were satisfactory, 1 was unsatisfactory.

Particulars of the unsatisfactory sample were referred to the Chief Sanitary Inspector of the neighbouring town where the ice cream was manufactured. He reported that the plant was modern and well conducted, and that there had been no unsatisfactory samples previously. It was therefore likely that the unsatisfactory result was due to accidental contamination after leaving the manufacturer.

No ice cream is manufactured within the district and it is fair to say that the bulk of the ice cream retailed is a pasteurised product of good quality sold already wrapped.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

All animals destined for sale for human consumption are sent to the central slaughterhouse in Hastings and meat inspection is thus limited to visiting butchers' shops. These visits are often made at the request of the butcher who has found some diseased condition when cutting up the meat.

A large amount (262 lbs.) of German, Polish, Italian, Belgian and French tinned ham was condemned, and it appears that Sanitary Inspectors throughout the country have reported a similar state of affairs. The origin of the hams is an interesting reminder of Britain's

changed food suppliers, brought about largely by the cut in the supply of Argentine meat.

An account of food found unfit for human consumption is given below:

1 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lb. tinned ham	1 tin plums
6 tins luncheon meat	2 tins rhubarb
2 tins tongues	1 tin rhubarb pudding
2 tins sausages	1 tin pears
2 tins pork	1 tin apple purce
1 tin meat in gravy	35 tins greengages
60 lb. pigs' feet	5 tins cranberries
25½ lb. beef	7 tins grapes
4 tins beef broth	5 lb. sweets
3 tins soup	9 pkts. creamola powder
9 tins beans	12 tins milk
1 tin peas	4 jars sandwich spread
1 tin beetroot	1 jar liquid chocolate
22 lb. apricot halves	1 tin jam
1 tin blackcurrants	1 lb. butter
3 tins peaches	

MILK PRODUCTION AND PRODUCERS

The following is a comparative estimate of the percentage of different types of milk produced in this District:—

	1949	1950	1951
T.T. Milk	20%	29.3%	35.35%
Accredited Milk	10%	5.4%	8.72%
Undesignated	70%	65.3%	55.93%

The progressive increase in the percentage of T.T. milk is noted with satisfaction.

In my Annual Report of last year I discussed Undulant Fever as an infection which arises from drinking raw milk infected with *Brucella* organisms.

Throughout the country an average of 15-20% of dairy herds are infected and unless this milk is pasteurised it is likely that it will give rise to infection in susceptible persons.

Many farmers are under a misapprehension in thinking that when their cattle have been injected with S19 that this effectively disposes of the possibility of disseminating disease in this fashion. However, this premise is incorrect in so far as S19 protects the cow only from the harmful effects, but does not prevent it from being a carrier of these organisms and disseminating them in the milk as sold to the consumer in its raw state.

Samples of raw milk submitted for bacteriological testing for Tubercle Bacilli have therefore additionally been tested for *Brucella*

organisms. When *Brucellae* have actually been demonstrated the farmer is directed to send his raw milk for pasteurisation, thus safeguarding and conserving the supply.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, provides for this measure when it is considered by the Medical Officer of Health that the milk supply contains substances likely to injure the consumer when taken in its raw state.

When desired the farmer is given assistance in locating the particular animals responsible, samples are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for testing without charge. Elimination of carriers of disease from the herd would allow the farmer to revert to his former practice of retailing milk in a raw state.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

There are now eight retail dairies remaining in the District under the supervision of this local authority. Without exception they all retail milk already bottled and emanating from large efficient pasteurising establishments in neighbouring towns.

There were two substantiated cases of milk being put into dirty bottles, apparently due to poor supervision on the part of the men manning the bottling machines. The firm concerned was warned of the consequences of further lapses.

The least satisfactory feature of the milk supply is the large number (58) of producer-retailers who distribute non-designated raw milk. These retailers are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the inspection of their premises is therefore no longer a duty of the local authority. Sampling in the course of distribution is now the only remaining method of checking left to this Authority. The relevant results are then communicated to the local representative of this Ministry; it then becomes his duty to take such action as may be indicated.

VITAMIN SUPPLEMENTS

The thirteen-weekly statistical records issued by the Ministry of Food during 1951 with regard to the issue of Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice indicate a regrettable lack of understanding and apathy on the part of the mothers with infants of pre-school age.

		<i>Orange Juice</i>		<i>Cod Liver Oil</i>		<i>Vitamin Tablets</i>	
		<i>Issue</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Issue</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Issue</i>	<i>%</i>
1st	..	337	25.9	96	25.1	19	26.0
2nd	..	365	27.8	93	24.7	18	22.0
3rd	..	437	31.6	73	18.4	17	18.9
4th	..	367	27.6	54	21.6	20	26.0
Average ..		376	28.2	79	22.4	18	23.2

The free issue of cod liver oil for all infants from birth to five years was introduced when the special green ration book was issued to infants in this age group.

This supplement was considered necessary in view of the likely deficiency of vitamins A and D in the authorised rations which would have the effect of a general lowering of vitality and thus entail a loss of capacity on the part of the body cells to resist invasion by harmful bacteria. In addition, there would be an added risk of abnormal bone development with ensuing deformities of bones and consequent incapacity in later life accompanied by invalidism of varying degree. In female infants the poor development of the pelvic bones would have the long-term effect of making a future confinement a difficult and dangerous procedure with the possibility of death or invalidism to the mother and child.

In recent years Vitamin Tablets have been issued to pregnant women in order to assist the growing child in its earliest formative months, so relieving the mother of the possibility of draining her own system in order to satisfy the essential demands of the coming infant, thus generally conserving her health and energy for the important tasks which lie ahead.

The Vitamin C Supplement contained in orange juice is a very necessary protective factor contributing to maintaining the health of the child and increasing its resistance to infection, and although contained normally in fresh vegetables is soon destroyed by careless cooking, thus the added safeguard of giving orange juice will ensure against loss in the ordinary diet.

The prevention of disease and the achievement of positive health both present and future is greatly enhanced and assured by the addition of these supplements to the diet of infants, and it is hoped that more mothers will become acutely aware of their obligations to their children and thus ensure that their nutrition and bone formation is not adversely affected by any conscious lapse on their part.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES IN BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT

<i>Name and address of Centre</i>	<i>Sessions in month</i>
BATTLE: Church Hall	First Wednesday in month.
BECKLEY: Parish Hall	First Tuesday in month.
BODIAM: Parish Room	Second Thursday in month.
BREDE and UDIMORE:	
The Hall, Broad Oak	Second Wednesday in month.
BURWASH: Congregational Hall ..	Second and fourth Thursdays in month.
ETCHINGHAM: Village Hall	First Thursday in month.
FLIMWELL: Village Hall	Fourth Tuesday in month.
HURST GREEN: Village Hall	Second Tuesday in month.
IDEN and PLAYDEN:	
Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh ..	First Friday in month.
NORTHIAM:	
Women's Institute Hall	Third Tuesday in month
ROBERTSBRIDGE:	
The Institute, Station Road ..	First and Third Tuesdays in month.

Infant Welfare Centres—*continued.*

<i>Name and address of Centre</i>	<i>Sessions in month</i>
SEDLSCOMBE: Village Hall ..	First Thursday in month.
TICEHURST: Institute Hall ..	First Wednesday in month.
WESTFIELD: Church Hall ..	Third Tuesday in month.
WINCHELSEA: The New Hall .	Second Friday in month.

WATER SUPPLY

There are five Statutory Undertakings within the District:

<i>Undertaking</i>	<i>Parishes served</i>
Battle Rural District Council. . .	Battle, Crowhurst, Whatlington, Mountfield, Playden, Iden and Rye Foreign.
Hastings Corporation ..	Parts of Westfield, Guestling, Pett and Fairlight, Icklesham including Winchelsea and Rye Harbour, and part of Ore.
Heathfield and District Water Co. ..	Burwash, Etchingham, Hurst Green, Robertsbridge, Bodiam and Ticehurst.
Cranbrook and District Water Co. ..	Northiam.
Bexhill Corporation	Catsfield and part of Crowhurst.

The water supply from Battle and Winchelsea is chlorinated and sampled monthly by the Water Engineer. All results were satisfactory.

The staff of the Water Engineer's Department were submitted for their annual blood testing in order to eliminate the possibility of a carrier state with consequent pollution of the water supply. This is arranged with the kindly co-operation of the Pathologist of the Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings. The result did not indicate any past or present disease likely to effect the purity of the water supply.

Other Piped Supplies

TOOT ROCK, PETT LEVEL

This small privately-owned supply serves 54 houses in the Pett Level area only. The water is from a shallow well and is of poor quality in the raw state. It is, however, filtered and chlorinated and seven samples taken for bacteriological examination showed satisfactory results.

FAIRLIGHT COVE ESTATE WATER COMPANY

This company supplies filtered and chlorinated water to 78 properties and also supplies the Warren Estate and the Pett Water Company. The company submitted six reports during the year on samples of water examined bacteriologically and eight similar samples were taken by the Council. All the samples were satisfactory.

The Fairlight Cove Estate Water Company have intimated that they would not oppose proposals for incorporating their area in that of the Hastings Corporation's Statutory Water Undertaking. Accordingly a Notice of Requisition was served on Hastings Corporation, with their tacit approval, during October, 1950. The work had not commenced by the end of 1951 owing to the shortage of iron pipes.

(a) WARREN ESTATE. Thirty-nine houses on this estate depend on the Fairlight Cove Water Company for their supply and as that company is often short of water for its own consumers, this Estate is sometimes without water for days. It is likely that the Warren Estate will eventually be taken into the Hastings Corporation's Statutory Area.

(b) PETT WATER COMPANY. This is a small company which merely distributes water from the Fairlight Cove Estate when available.

The company serves fifteen houses in the Chick Hill area of Pett and the inadequacy of the supply has led to many complaints.

FIREHILLS ESTATE WATER COMPANY

This company restricts its filtered water supply to its own estate comprising 102 houses, and operates a system of rationing during the summer months by supplying water to each of nine sectors in turn so that individual houses have their storage tanks filled once a day. Six samples taken by the Council were satisfactory.

The following table summarises the results of bacteriological sampling by this Authority:—

<i>Undertaking</i>			<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Toot Tock, Pett Level	..	..	7	0
Fairlight Cove	..	..	8	0
Firehills Estate	..	..	6	0
Heathfield Water Company..	..	..	3	0

DISTRIBUTION OF PIPED WATER IN THE PARISHES

Parish	Houses directly connected to main	Premises supplied by meter
Battle	1,224	142
Bodiam	127	—
Burwash	534	—
Catsfield	164	—
Crowhurst	169	41
Etchingham	213	—
Guestling†	100	—
Hurst Green*	247	—
Icklesham (Winchelsea)	218	17
Icklesham (Rye Harbour)	111	17
Icklesham (Parish)	35	—
Iden	2	1
Mountfield	6	—
Northiam	361	16
Ore	64	—
Playden	44	7
Rye Foreign	19	3
Salehurst	452	—
Ticehurst	719	—
Westfield	205	—
Whatlington	4	—

*Hurst Green is postal address — properties would be either in parishes of Etchingham or Salehurst. † Including the parishes of Pett and Fairlight.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF PROPERTIES CONNECTED TO THE MAIN SUPPLY

	<i>Houses directly connected to the main</i>	<i>Premises supplied by standpipe</i>
1949	4,574	228
1950	4,810	233
1951	5,038	244

The higher figure for the number of houses supplied by standpipe is accounted for by more up-to-date information and does not indicate any actual increase in the number of standpipes during the year.

SCHOOL WATER SUPPLIES

School	Result		Action taken and present position
	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	
Ashburnham ..	3	0	Satisfactory.
Beckley ..	1	0	Water now delivered by this Council.
Brede	1	1	Underground rainwater tanks cleansed. Now satisfactory.
Dallington ..	1	2	Well found to have defective cover. Now satisfactory.
Ewhurst ..	0	1	School supply condemned. Adjacent satisfactory source utilised.
Fairlight ..	2	0	Metafilter now fitted. Satisfactory.
Guestling ..	0	1	Recently connected to main water supply.
Icklesham ..	0	1	School supply condemned. Water delivered by this Council.
Mountfield and Whatlington	—	—	Water delivered by this Council.
Peasmarsh ..	2	1	Metafilter now fitted. Satisfactory.
Pett	0	3	School supply condemned. School Medical Officer and School Managers advised that all water for drinking purposes must be boiled. Main water available in September, 1951, but was not connected.
Playden ..	—	—	Water delivered by this Council.
Sedlescombe ..	—	—	Water delivered by this Council.
Staplecross ..	—	—	Water delivered by this Council.
Udimore ..	0	1	Piped supply to Housing Site now used.

The fifteen remaining schools in the District are served by main water supplies.

It will be noted that almost all the school water supplies have been improved and are considered reasonably safe. The exception is the Pett Water Supply which emanates from a polluted well.

Various efforts have been made to filter this water, but the results are still unsatisfactory. Instructions were therefore issued to the School Managers that all water must be boiled prior to use for drinking purposes, etc.

In September, 1951, the main water supply passed along the road in front of the school and the School Managers were notified of the desirability and urgency of utilising this easily accessible supply. The School Medical Officer was informed of the position. No action has been taken to connect to this pure supply.

It is disquieting that a state of affairs like this can exist where school children are exposed to the continued danger of drinking polluted water, while those apparently enlightened bodies controlling the school take no action to avoid this ever present grave risk to the health of the children under their care.

WATER SAMPLES

The following water samples were taken from new or suspected sources during the year ended 31st December, 1951:

PARISH	WELLS		SPRINGS	
	Satisfactory	Polluted	Satisfactory	Polluted
Ashburnham ..	—	—	—	1
Beckley	1	3	—	4
Bodiam	—	—	1	—
Brede	1	1	1	7
Brightling	—	1	—	—
Broomhill	—	—	—	1
Burwash	—	1	1	—
Crowhurst	—	—	—	4
Dallington	—	3	—	4
Ewhurst	—	—	—	5
Fairlight	1	3	—	3
Guestling	—	2	1	2
Iden	—	3	—	2
Northiam	4	—	1	2
Peasmarsh	3	—	5	2
Playden	2	2	—	2
Sedlescombe	—	1	—	2
Ticehurst	1	—	1	3
Udimore	—	1	1	1
Westfield	—	3	—	8
Whatlington	—	1	—	5
	13	25	12	58

PARISH	RAIN WATER TANKS		STREAM	
	Satisfactory	Polluted	Satisfactory	Polluted
Battle	—	—	—	1
Brede	1	1	—	—
Brightling	—	1	—	—
Dallington	1	—	—	—
East Guldeford	1	—	—	—
Ewhurst	1	2	—	—
Fairlight	1	—	—	—
Icklesham	—	—	—	1
Westfield	—	1	—	—
	5	5	—	2

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF WATER SAMPLES SHOWING SATISFACTORY AND UNSATISFACTORY RESULTS

YEAR	SATISFACTORY		UNSATISFACTORY	
	Wells and rain water tanks	Springs and streams	Wells and rain water tanks	Springs and streams
1949 ..	19	7	45	11
1950 ..	33	14	55	24
1951 ..	18	12	30	60

Wells and Springs

Water sampling and advice to householders, farmers, etc., on methods of improving individual supplies by protecting wells and springs has occupied a large proportion of the Sanitary Inspector's time and reflects the great need for piped water throughout the District.

Plumbo Solvency

The main water supplies are not liable to Plumbo Solvent action. Chemical samples taken from other sources have not revealed Plumbo solvency.

Transfer of Water Works to Hastings Corporation

The new Darwell reservoir constructed by Hastings Corporation was filled during the early part of the year, and in accordance with the terms of a pre-war agreement the Corporation accordingly took over the water works at Winchelsea and the supply at Rye Harbour on 1st April.

Water Surveys

(a) ROCKS LANE, GUESTLING

Thirty-one properties in Rocks Lane, Ore, were visited, and of 27 householders interviewed 2 were already connected to the main, 15 were willing to connect to a new main, 7 others would like to connect but were worried about the expense, and 3 were unwilling to connect.

The Engineer to the Hastings Corporation estimated that a scheme to serve these houses would cost £2,750.

(b) WINCHELSEA BEACH

Two hundred and fifty properties in the Winchelsea Beach area were visited in a survey to discover the attitude of householders there to the proposed new water main.

The survey was disappointing in that only 65 persons were prepared to say definitely that they would connect to a new main and 10 of these are in an area which may not be served by the main.

Thirty-five were not interested and in 130 cases no satisfactory information could be obtained owing to the fact that the properties were occupied by holiday tenants.

It was found generally that those owners who let their houses to holiday makers were less willing to connect than owner-occupiers.

The survey confirms the urgent need for the upward revision of the £20 limit (Public Health Act, 1936, Section 138) which is the stumbling block preventing the Council from forcing owners to connect. It seems particularly irksome that owners letting at high rentals to holiday makers can refuse to provide this most necessary amenity, which virtually flows past their doors, and thus perpetuate a grave risk to public health by the use of shallow suspect wells often of inadequate supply in the summer months,

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

New Sewerage Schemes

(a) ICKLESHAM

Part I of this scheme involving that part of the parish to the east of the Post Office was completed during the year, and the Council succeeded in obtaining consent to start Part II immediately afterwards.

By the end of the year the bulk of the work had been done.

Icklesham is thus fortunate in being the first parish to be provided with a new sewer and a new water main since the war.

(b) GUESTLING (THREE OAKS), BURWASH VILLAGE, TICEHURST

Schemes for these parishes were put before the Minister of Local Government and Planning during the year and Public Inquiries were held.

(c) CAMBER (BROOMHILL), FAIRLIGHT.

The Council's Consulting Engineers submitted schemes for the parishes of Camber (Broomhill) and Fairlight.

(d) SMALL SEWERAGE WORKS, IDEN

In order to abate a long standing nuisance in the highway ditch adjoining Elmsmead Cottages, Iden, a sewer was laid from the Council Housing Site. The owners of the two cottages contributing to the nuisance then complied with a request to connect to the sewer.

The opportunity was taken to lay this sewer at such a level as to ensure that it could be utilised in case of further development on adjacent land.

(e) PLAYDEN

A new sewer was laid from the Peace and Plenty Inn, Playden, to a point beyond the new Housing Site, and a small disposal outfall works was constructed.

(f) PAYGATES, BURWASH

About 40 feet of sewer had to be relaid at Paygates, Burwash, owing to serious trouble in an old sewer which was sited beneath the heavily reinforced concrete highway.

Restriction of Capital Expenditure

Towards the end of the year the Council decided that in view of national economic difficulties they should reconsider their programme of capital expenditure.

The immediate programme was therefore reduced to the following:— Icklesham; Playden; Burwash Weald and Village; Guestling Green; Ticehurst and West Flimwell; Northiam; Camber Sands; and Winchelsea Beach (including new Treatment Works for Winchelsea Town).

Robertsbridge Sewage Disposal Works

The sheet piling work referred to in my last report was completed at a cost of £2,399.

There is every reason to believe that this work is proving successful in preventing further subsidence.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

This service is carried out by a private firm from Maidstone who hold a "B" Transport Licence for this work within Battle Rural District. The arrangement has been satisfactory, except for some understandable delay in responding to calls during periods of exceptional demand.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The very large area to be covered—117,147 acres—makes refuse collection difficult and relatively costly. This Council has three 10 cu. yd. and two 7 cu. yd. vehicles, and collections are made at approximately three-weekly intervals, except in the built-up area of Battle, where a weekly collection is made.

I am not satisfied with this attenuated service. However, most householders manage to "make-do," but whenever a vehicle breaks down or the service is impeded through sickness or holidays, complaints are received.

The situation created by the increased numbers of holiday visitors in the coastal areas, in particular Camber, is potentially dangerous. Mounds of refuse breeding flies in hot weather in close proximity to houses filled to capacity is a menace to public health and aesthetically unpleasant.

Hopes of an improved service were dashed when the Council decided (on the grounds of economy) not to purchase the extra vehicle allowed for in the estimates.

I trust that when the estimates are reviewed it will be found possible to include the extra vehicle, which in my opinion is so very necessary.

The Council's refuse tips at Battle, Winchelsea, Beckley, Guestling, Etchingham and a new tip at Borders Farm, Etchingham, are generally well under control; inspected and treated by the Council's rat catchers and sprayed with insecticides when necessary. The lack of adequate covering material for Battle Tip was unsatisfactory, but loads of earth from the nearby Marley Lane highway excavations were of great assistance in resolving this difficulty.

Salvage

The results of the year's collection are summarised below:.

<i>Material</i>		<i>Tons cwt. qrs. lb.</i>				<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Waste paper .. ..	..	81	6	0	0	1246	13	7
Ferrous metals .. ..	..	27	5	2	0	71	11	6
Non-ferrous metals ..	..	2	12	1	7	230	16	8
Bottles and jars .. ..	..	6	12	3	21	23	8	7
Rags .. ..	..	4	2	3	0	119	15	0
Flock and Horsehair ..	..	—	5	2	5	9	16	6
		122	5	0	5	£1702	1	10

INDUSTRIES

The numbers engaged in the main varied industries located in this District are given in the table on page 26,

Working conditions were generally good and employers have co-operated where necessary.

The hop-picking season commenced 30th August and was completed on 21st September. The Bodiam area alone received some 2,700 men and women and 1,176 children under 12 years during this period. All were accommodated in huts with necessary amenities adjacent and suitably located.

Latrines serving some 3,000 pickers were converted during 1951 to pail closets, emptied and cleaned twice daily by contractors. This system will be continued during 1952, but the growers intimated that the cost was proving very high and that they were tempted to revert to deep trench latrines.

Water points were improved by properly drained concrete standings, and the camp shops were refloored and drained to achieve more hygienic conditions.

A system of camp wardens was fairly successful in improving the tidiness of sites and incineration of refuse, although the degree of success varied with the warden.

The Sanitary Inspectors inspected most sites both prior to and during the season, and were instrumental in effecting many improvements and substantially raising the standard of accommodation throughout the district.

The weather was kinder than last year, although there were some heavy rainfalls. There were no cases of infectious disease of any significance. The crop was good and I hope the pickers returned home feeling better for their stay.

A Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health spent two days inspecting hop-pickers' camps. He expressed satisfaction with the improvements effected.

NUMBERS ENGAGED IN THE MAIN INDUSTRIES

on 31st December, 1951 :

							<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bakery .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	16	37
Beach works .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	47	1	48
Building trade ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	527	10	537
Concrete works ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	97	9	106
Egg Packing Works	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	14	25
Engineering works	..	..	..	..	..	..	215	18	233
Fencing Companies	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	2	29
Flour mills .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	37	20	57
Gypsum mines ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	599	12	611
Hop gardens (permanent staff—Guinness's) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	120	5	125
Jam Factory .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	41	66
Laundries .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	58	74
Printing Works ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	1	6
Sawmills .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	74	1	75
Tannery .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	—	19
Tar Distillers ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	—	4
Wooden Toy and Cricket Bat Manufacturers ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41	32	73

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Twenty-one factories were inspected during the year. No new Notices were served.

There are no Outworkers under Section 110 (1) (c) in this District.

NOTICES SERVED UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Number of Notices outstanding at the end of 1950	..	..	75
Number of Informal Notices served during 1951	..	..	226
Number of Informal Notices complied with during 1951	..	..	167
Number of Informal Notices outstanding at end of 1951	..	..	134
Number of Statutory Notices outstanding at end of 1950	..	..	5
Number of Statutory Notices served during 1951	..	..	22
Number of Statutory Notices complied with during 1951	..	..	15
Number of Statutory Notices outstanding at end of 1951	..	..	12

ACTION UNDER THE HOUSING ACT, 1936

Dwelling-houses represented under Section 11	..	..	..	17
Demolition Orders made	..	..	..	2
Undertakings to repair	..	..	..	2
Undertakings not to relet	..	..	..	10
Houses demolished in compliance with orders	..	..	..	15
Houses demolished voluntarily	..	..	..	1
Closing Order on part of premises	..	..	..	1
Houses made fit after representation	..	..	..	1

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, AND HOUSING ACT, 1936

General Observations on the Year's Work

Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, was used in all cases where demolition had to be considered, whereas notices to secure repairs were served exclusively under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Forty-six properties were dealt with in the various stages of the procedure under Section 11 of the Housing Act, and 17 of these were represented during the year under review.

Sixteen dwellings were demolished, but this figure included 11 beach huts let on a weekly basis as temporary residences during holidays, so the actual loss of permanent accommodation was not very great. Demolition was carried out by the owners in 14 cases, but in the 2 remaining cases the Council had to exercise its powers to do the work in default. The work was put out to tender and the costs are being recovered from the one owner of the two properties in question.

One further dwelling was demolished voluntarily by an owner without formal action being taken.

Full particulars of the represented properties are given in the statistical section.

It will be observed that in relatively few cases have owners given undertakings to repair their properties. This state of affairs is to be expected since action under Section 11 of the Act relates only to those properties which *cannot* be made fit at a *reasonable* expense.

Informal notices in connection with routine repairs have in the main been limited to essentials. The application of the higher standard usually understood to be required by the Housing Act, 1936, would

have resulted in heavy outgoings by the owners, which could not possibly have been recovered from the standard rent in a reasonable time. Technically, the Council are obliged to deal with such cases under Section 11 of the Act, but in practice this would result in the wholesale demolition of buildings, thus accentuating the already pressing problems of rehousing.

Many tenants of substandard houses cannot afford the rent of a new Council house, but they could well afford to pay twice the rental of many older properties let at 3s. to 10s. per week, and given the choice would prefer to stay in a repaired and improved cottage at a rent within their means.

This artificial situation is a product of the Rent Restrictions Acts and until these Acts are amended or the burden of maintenance is made reasonable by some form of subsidy (or by a combination of both) the Housing Act of 1936 will continue to prove unreal in its application to present circumstances.

A revision of the Rent Restrictions Acts would accordingly prove helpful to local authorities when dealing with the difficult problems of obsolete and partially worn-out houses.

DETAILS OF ACTION UNDER SECTION 11 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936

During the year seventeen properties were represented under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. Of this number eleven were beach huts which had been let as dwellings:

Property	Action taken	Position at end of 1951
Little Hemingfold Lodge, Battle.	*Destructive Undertaking accepted February, 1951.	Used as store only.
Lodge, Valebrook, Ore	Demolition Order made January, 1951.	Demolition to be carried out in default.
Box Cottage, Brede ..	*Constructive Undertaking accepted August, 1951.	Work in progress. Vacant.
The Warrens, Camber	Demolition Order, 1950 ..	Demolished.
1-11 Beach Dwellings, Camber.	Demolition Order, 1950 ..	Demolished.
1 and 2 Cherry Tree Cottages, Sedlescombe.	Represented 1949	Still occupied.
Craven Cottage, Iden ..	Destructive Undertaking accepted February, 1951.	Used as cow shelter.
Windmill Cottage, Sedlescombe.	Destructive Undertaking accepted February, 1951.	Vacant.

*A "Constructive Undertaking" is an undertaking to carry out an approved schedule of repairs.

A "Destructive Undertaking" is an undertaking that a cottage will not be occupied until made fit to the satisfaction of the Council.

Table continued from previous page.

Property	Action taken	Position at of 1951
2 and 3 Prospect Cottages, Battle.	Destructive Undertaking accepted March, 1951 (tenants rehoused).	Vacant.
Restview, Westfield ..	Demolition Order, August, 1949.	Vacant.
The Cabin, Udimore ..	Represented March, 1951; Demolition Order, May, 1951.	Demolished.
Whatcombe Cottage, Beckley.	Represented April, 1951; Constructive Undertaking accepted August, 1951.	Still occupied.
1 and 2 Vollage Cottages, Peasmarsh.	Represented September, 1951; Destructive Undertakings accepted November, 1951 (one tenant rehoused).	One still occupied.
Franchise Lodge, Burwash.	Represented September, 1951; Destructive Undertaking accepted November, 1951.	Still occupied.
46 High Street, Robertsbridge.	Represented October, 1951; Closing Order December, 1951.	Still occupied by three separate families.
Cottage at rear of Combourne Cottages, Rye Foreign.	—	Voluntarily demolished by owner.
Sunrise, Stormy Petrel, Curlew, Gannet, Seagull, Wild Duck and Sunset, Camber.	Represented November, 1951 (seven properties).	Owners had appeared before Committee and promised Undertakings to let these properties only as beach huts.
1 and 2 Spilstead Cottages, Sedlescombe.	Represented November, 1951	Demolition Orders to be made in January, 1952.
Chestnut Cottage, Northiam.	Represented November, 1951	To be adjourned for two months.
3 Marlow Cottages, Northiam.	Represented November, 1951	Demolition Order to be made. Still occupied.
1 and 2 Medhurst Cottages, Robertsbridge.	Undertaking not to relet accepted September, 1951.	Still occupied.
24 and 26 Northbridge Street, Robertsbridge.	Demolition Order made in 1950 (tenants rehoused).	Demolition carried out in default.
Rose Cottage, Burwash.	Represented 1948; Destructive Undertaking accepted.	Converted into one dwelling. Undertaking rescinded.
1 and 2 Square Cottages, Burwash.	Demolition Order, 1948 ..	Demolished January, 1951.

HOUSING ACT, 1949—IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

One grant was made during the year, but two other applicants were advised that their schemes were outside the financial limits laid down in the Act.

The Council has used its discretion and refused to make grants where inappropriate.

HOUSE REQUISITIONING

The staff made twenty-three inspections in this connection.

No new requisitions were made in view of the Ministry of Local Government and Planning's attitude that de-requisitioning should be the aim for the future. All endeavours were accordingly directed towards rehousing the present occupants of requisitioned properties in suitable alternative accommodation.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Caravans in increased numbers continued to flow into the District during the summer months. Unfortunately, the greatest number proceeded to the least suitable parts of the coastal areas, and having arrived, remained static until the Council moved them on.

The unavoidable time lag between detection and prosecution is so protracted that the owner of a field can let it to campers at a handsome profit for three months and be quite content to pay any fines he may have incurred. The Council were successful in proceedings against the owners of sites in seventeen cases.

The control of this motley influx takes up the major portion of the time of one Sanitary Inspector during the whole of the holiday season, including weekends, and there is every indication that the public health problems will become intensified as the numbers increase. The partial solution will be the arrival of main water and sewerage in these areas. Caravans could then be accommodated on suitable sites, having all necessary amenities for safeguarding the health of the occupants under adequate supervision preferably organised by the Local Authority.

BUILDING LICENSING

The Sanitary Inspectors continued to do all the inspections involved in administering the regulations controlling civil building.

NEW DWELLINGS

New dwellings erected during 1951:—

(a) By the Council—

Battle	..	..	..	..	..	22
Beckley	..	..	..	..	..	12
Salehurst	..	..	..	..	..	3
Sedlescombe..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Udimore	..	..	..	..	..	6
Westfield	..	..	..	..	..	11
						—
						64
						—

(b) By private enterprise under licence	..	21
(c) By private enterprise under subsidy	..	4
Conversions to dwelling houses	.. ..	13 new units

Houses in course of erection, 31st December, 1951 :

(a) By the Council :		
Houses	.. .. .	99
Shop	.. .. .	1
Garage	.. .. .	1
(b) By private enterprise	.. .. .	14
(c) By private enterprise (war destroyed)	..	4

COUNCIL HOUSES

Statistics and General Observations

Council houses have been provided wherever need is most acute, the only limiting factors being water, adequate sewerage schemes and ministerial sanctions.

The comparable figures of council houses in this District for 1939 and the years 1945 to 1951 are given below:—

1939	..	..	..	..	433
1945	..	..	..	..	433
1946	..	..	..	..	437
1947	..	..	..	..	540
1948	..	..	..	..	698
1949	..	..	..	..	746
1950	..	..	..	..	831
1951	..	..	..	..	895

One hundred and seventy-four families were rehoused from the waiting list during the year, leaving 597 applicants still desiring rehousing.

Number of houses on main water	.. ..	791
Number of houses still on other supplies	..	152
Number of houses not having water closets	..	85

Improvements

In the past year 22 dwellings have been connected to main water and 12 dwellings have been provided with water closets. Wherever possible every effort is being made to connect to main water supply and convert earth latrines to water closets.

Arrears of Rent

<i>Year ending</i>		<i>Total rent collectible</i>	<i>Percentage of arrears</i>
		£ s. d.	
31st March, 1951	.. ..	43,238 8 1	.29
31st March, 1952	.. ..	52,393 12 10	.105

A pointer to the stability and integrity of the Council House tenants is indicated in the Percentage of Arrears for the years given above,

Problem Families Committee

The Problem Families Committee has continued in being, and although the meetings and visits of the full Committee have been infrequent it has proved its usefulness. In the main, families have responded well to advice, and in particular the provision of amenities as exemplified by the modern council house has been of inestimable value in effecting their rehabilitation.

The elimination of the drudgery inherent in poor housing, e.g. well water, bucket latrines, substandard dark houses frequently in a state of gross disrepair, has allowed the less careworn housewife to spend more time on planning for her family; incidentally giving her some much needed leisure. She has thus been enabled to join in the family group pleasures rather than be the drudge constantly employed in household chores, becoming increasingly tired and bewildered. She can now give that affection and maternal care to the family group which is so essential in the formation of healthy minds and bodies in the young. The inculcation of a sound moral sense of right and wrong is more likely under these favourable circumstances.

The deprivation of a disciplined, happy family life is most certainly the basis of much delinquency and unhappiness occurring in adolescence and adult life.

The preservation of the well integrated family group is the surest foundation for communal happiness and can become a potent source of strength in overcoming the possible depredations by other nations whose way of life is based on different ideologies.

ANALYSIS OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING 1951.

Drains and Sanitary Accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1147
Water supply .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	852
Milk and Dairies .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	86
Building Inspections .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1247
Hop-pickers' Dwellings .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	110
Infectious Diseases .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	91
Salvage and Public Cleansing Service	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	85
Food shops .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	109
Housing and Public Health Acts .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	806
Requisitioning .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Moveable Dwellings .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	309
Nuisances .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	129
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	274
Factories and Workshops .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Schools .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	524
Verminous premises .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Housing Survey .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	76

Total 5,915

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Council employs two rat catchers, who treated 12 farms, 49 business premises and 390 private dwellings, the latter being treated free of charge.

They made 582 inspections of premises suspected of being infested, including 65 farms.

A routine survey of farms was completed in two parishes and will proceed from parish to parish as circumstances permit. The farmers who did take advantage of this excellent service provided by the Council were very satisfied. A more detailed survey is appended below.

Some extremely successful treatments were recorded, one in particular, where 186 baiting points were used gave an estimated kill (based on the weight of poison bait consumed) of 217 rats. This reflects credit on the operative for his patience and thoroughness.

There is good evidence that both rat catchers have carried out consistently effective treatments, very few complaints having been received afterwards.

From the public health point of view it is unfortunate that this necessary work is somewhat impeded by the need to obtain payment from occupants of farm and business premises. However, the materials ordinarily stored in many business premises and in particular on farms, do attract vermin, and it is quite rightly their legal and financial responsibility to keep such premises free from rats and mice.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority	Dwell- ing Houses	Agri- cultural	All other (including business and industrial)	Total
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District.	19	9,000 (est.)	1,354	1,099 (approx.)	11,469
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1951 as a result (a) of notification, or (b) otherwise.	(a) 3	226	8	40	277
	(b) 16	208	57	24	305
III. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by rats	Major 11	122	10	28	171
	Minor 7	247	2	12	268
IV. Number of Properties (under II) found to be seriously infested by mice.	1	21	—	9	31
V. Number of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority.	19	390	12	49	470

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

(a) Section 47. Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention

Fortunately it was not found necessary to invoke these provisions during the year under review.

An addition to this Section was received in August, 1951, which would appear to be useful in accelerating the procedure in particular cases of urgency.

(b) Section 50. Burial or Cremation of the Dead

Action was taken under this Section in six cases.

HOME PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICE

This service is now well into its stride and is a shining example of successful voluntary effort. Many ailing people (young and old) in remote villages have cause to be grateful for the ministrations they have received in their own homes. They have been saved from the frequent prolonged journeyings to and from hospital in variable weather which would otherwise be necessary. Incidentally, the load on the Hospital Car Service must have been somewhat eased.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The St. John Ambulance Brigade have continued to give this District a first-class service.

			1950		1951	
			<i>Cases</i>	<i>Mileage</i>	<i>Cases</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
Illness	..	..	436	14,748	421	13,267
Accidents	..	..	92	2,387	97	2,289
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	..	..	528	17,135	415	15,556
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

The facilities available at the Public Health Laboratory, Brighton, have been used extensively, and I am obliged to the Director (Dr. J. E. Jameson) for his help and co-operation.

MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY UNIT

This Unit visited the nearby Gypsum Mines, Mountfield, and the opportunity was taken to have the whole of the Council's staff X-rayed at the same time. The response of those available was 100 per cent.

No case of pulmonary tuberculosis was discovered. One cardiac abnormality was found and the person concerned was able to receive specialist treatment for its correction.

PREVENTION OF VENEREAL DISEASES

The Ministry of Health asked for the co-operation of all Local Authorities in giving publicity to the ever present danger of Venereal Diseases. Posters supplied by the Ministry were accordingly displayed at suitable vantage points throughout the District. Details regarding Treatment Centres and times of attendance were over-printed.

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN

I would like to thank Inspector Boobyer, the local representative of the N.S.P.C.C., for his timely help in assisting certain families in this District who had neglected their duties as parents. These cases have, in the main, been due to (*a*) force of circumstances, (*b*) weakness of character, and intellect (*c*) ignorance.

By persistent visiting and attempting to inculcate a sense of values he has been instrumental in keeping those families in being and generally rehabilitating them.
